

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These remarks are made in response to the Office Action of February 28, 2007 (Office Action). As this response is timely filed within the 3-month shortened statutory period, no fee is believed due. Nonetheless, the Examiner is expressly authorized to charge any deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

In the Office Action, each of the claims was rejected on the basis of new grounds of rejection. Claims 1, 3-7, 9-12, 15-18, 20-23, 25, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,813,608 to Baranowski (hereinafter Baranowski), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,487,180 to Borgstahl (hereinafter Borgstahl). Claims 2, 13-14, 19, and 26-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baranowski and Borgstahl, in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,490,443 to Freeny, Jr. (hereinafter Freeny). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baranowski and Borgstahl, in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,577,720 to Sutter (hereinafter Sutter). Claims 1-7, 12-15, 17-18, 25-26, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,601,040 to Kolls (hereinafter Kolls), in view of Baranowski, in further view of US Patent Publication No. 2003/0061271 Pittarelli (hereinafter Pittarelli).

The claims have been amended to more clearly define the present invention and to further emphasize differences between the present invention and the cited prior art references. As discussed herein, the claim amendments are fully supported throughout the Specification. No new matter has been introduced by the claim amendments.

Aspects of Applicants' Invention

Prior to addressing the cited references, it may be helpful to reiterate certain aspects of Applicants' invention. One embodiment of the invention, exemplified by amended Claim 1, is a method for providing kiosk service offerings. The method can include retrofitting an existing, publicly-located kiosk (100) with a wireless personal area network (PAN) (130), the kiosk previously having lacked wireless communication

capabilities but having been configured to communicate over an existing physical communications link with an existing communications network (110). The method also can include configuring the kiosk to provide electronic services including data and applications over wireless communications links to wireless devices (140) in the PAN.

The method can further include maintaining on the kiosk a list of available electronic services. A portion of the available electronic services can be stored locally within the kiosk, while another portion can be retrieved by the kiosk from the existing communications network (110) over the physical communications link. Additionally, the method can include establishing a wireless communications link with a wireless device in the PAN, receiving at the kiosk a request from the wireless device for one or more of the available electronic services, and retrieving the requested electronic services.

The method also can include delivering the requested electronic services to the wireless device in the PAN via the wireless communications link. Once conveyed to the wireless device, a retrieved electronic service can be executed within the wireless device independently of the kiosk and other devices.

The Claims Define Over The Prior Art

Baranowski discloses a wireless system and a portable device with wireless connection to the wireless system for linking customers to the operations of a business. (See, e.g., Abstract.) Baranowski concerns providing directional and product information to customers in a wide-area facility and facilitating communication between separated members of a group using the wide-area facility. (See column 2, lines 10-14.) In contrast, the present invention is directed to providing electronic services, including applications and data, to a wireless device in a personal area network (PAN) via a kiosk, thereby providing a client access to distributable applications using an application service provider (ASP) architecture otherwise not practically employed for wireless devices. More specifically, the electronic services can be stored locally within the kiosk or can be retrieved by the kiosk from the existing communications network over the physical

communications link. The electronic services can then be delivered to the wireless device in the PAN over a short-range radio communications link. An electronic service can be executed within the wireless device independently of the kiosk and other devices. The electronic services can even be retained within and remain executable by the wireless device even after the wireless device is disconnected from the PAN.

Baranowski and the present invention concern totally different problems and thus provide totally different solutions. Baranowski does not at all concern providing electronic services to a wireless device in which the electronic services can be executed in the wireless device independently of the kiosk and other devices. The portable devices in the wireless system of Baranowski are part of the system and cannot execute any electronic services independently of the system.

Borgstahl discloses a personal information system comprises a personal kiosk system and a personal presence identifier carried by a user and coupled to the personal kiosk system by a short-range two-way wireless link (see the abstract). Similarly, Borgstahl also does not concern providing distributable applications to a wireless device.

Kolls discloses an electronic commerce terminal for wirelessly communicating to a plurality of communication devices. Again, Kolls does not provide distributable applications to a wireless device. The terminals may communicate with other devices wirelessly, but they do not obtain electronic services – applications or data – that can be executed within the terminals independently of the system through the wireless communications link.

Pittarelli discloses a system for information distribution and communications across geographical locations. However, it is noted that Pittarelli does not at all concern a wireless system. Other cited references, moreover, do not make up for the differences between the present invention and the above-discussed references.

Accordingly, none of the cited references, individually or in combination, disclose or suggest all the features of the present invention as claimed. Therefore, Applicants

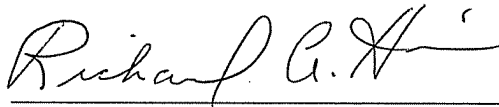
respectfully submit that all the claims of the instant application define over the cited prior art and request that the rejections under 35 USC 103 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that this application is now in full condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

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